करने के लिए जेलों में आधारभूत सुविधाओं में सुधार करने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को उनके प्रयासों को उनके प्रयासों में सहायता देने के लिए जेल प्रशासन के आधुनिकीकरण की योजना के अन्तर्गत केंद्रीय सहायता भी उपलब्ध करा रही है। इसके अलावा, दसवें वित्त आयोग द्वारा पुराने जेल भवनों की मरम्मत और उनके नवीकरण के लिए और जेलों में चिकित्सा सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को वित्तीय सहायता देने की सिफारिश भी की है।

Article 356

3900. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments have urged the Central Government to modify Article 356 of the Constitution to prevent its misuse;

(b) if so, whether the Sarkaria Commission has made some recommendations regarding Article 356 of the Constitution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Central Government on such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission in regard to the amendment of article 356 of the Constitution of India are contained in Chapter VI of its Report. These recommendations were discussed in the meetings of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council held on 15.1.1997, 10.5.1997, 17.6.1997 and 8.7.1997. The matter was also discussed in the meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 17.7.1997. However, there was no consensus. It was suggested by the Prime Minister that the matter be further considered by the Standing Committee and brought before the Inter-State Council in due course.

Major initiatives to augment anti insurgency strategy

3901. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has launched major initiatives on economic front to augment its new anti-insurgency strategy in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre has also acceded to pending requests of Assam Government for similar dispensations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Govt. considers accelerated economic development as an important part of the strategy to deal with militancy in J&K. A high level meeting was convened by the Union Home Minister with the Chief Minister, J&K on 24.6.98 at Srinagar to review the progress of on-going schemes and discuss various issues pertaining to development of the State. The Union Ministers of Defence, Tourism, Railways and Power as well as concerned Ministers of the State Govt. participated in the meeting.

Subsequently, a second meeting was held with the Chief Minister, J&K on 5.7.98 at New Delhi to discuss the financial problems being faced by the J&K State. Union Minister of Finance, Minister of power, Defence Minister and deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Finance Minister of J&K attended the meeting. The following decisions were taken at the meeting:—

(i) The Government of India will meet the Plan requirements by bridging the resource gaps, providing funding for a suitable Plan size. However, the State Government will also take steps to improve their own resources by better collection of revenues/